

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01999 101006Z

ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 ACDA-07 EB-07 IGA-02 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /085 W  
-----110640Z 111643 /20

R 100937Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7705

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, SHUM, PINT, SN, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S HUMAN RIGHTS SPEECH

REF: STATE 098034

1. USIS HAS GIVEN WIDE DISTRIBUTION TO SECRETARY'S APRIL 30 SPEECH ON HUMAN RIGHTS. CHARGE HAS FORWARDED COPIES OF SPEECH TO PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. CHARGE USED OPPORTUNITY OF CALL ON ATTORNEY GENERAL TAN BOON TEIK ON ANOTHER MATTER TO HAND HIM A COPY OF SPEECH. CHARGE STRESSED COMPREHENSIVE NATURE OF THE STATEMENT AND ITS CENTRAL IMPORTANCE TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY. ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED A COPY FROM USIS AND THAT HE HAD READ IT WITH INTEREST, BUT HE MADE NO OTHER COMMENT.

2. SINGAPORE'S LABOR DAY (MAY 1) AND THE GENERAL ELECTION IN INDONESIA DOMINATED THE NEWS STORIES AND EDITORIALS IN THE SINGAPORE PRESS DURING THE WEEK FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S SPEECH. THE "SUNDAY TIMES" OF MAY 1, HOWEVER, CARRIED A REUTER REPORT IN ITS "WORLDWIDE" PAGE ENTITLED "HUMAN RIGHTS DRIVE TO BE 'PRAGMATIC, NOT SELF-RIGHTEOUS'." THE REPORT SAID

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VANCE GAVE " THE FULLEST OUTLINE SO FAR OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS." IT THEN WENT ON TO SPECIFY THE THREE CATEGORIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE "NANYANG SIANG PAU", THE ONLY OTHER NEWSPAPER TO REPORT ON VANCE'S SPEECH, WENT ON TO SPECIFY THE QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AS THE U.S. DETERMINES WHETHER AND HOW TO ACT IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO

EDITORIALS.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES HEAVY COVERAGE GIVEN TO PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS PRINCIPAL REASON WHY SPEECH HAS NOT RECEIVED VERY MUCH ATTENTION IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. SINCE GOS UNDOUBTEDLY HAS SOME RESERVATIONS CONCERNING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, WE THINK POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AS WELL AS SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WILL AVOID COMMENTING ON IT EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY.

GRANT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decapton Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SP  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 98034  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SECRETARY'S HUMAN RIGHTS SPEECH  
**TAGS:** SOPN, SHUM, PINT, SN, US, XX, (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009